



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,226	04/01/2004	Gary J. Ford	p27342	5374
7055 7590 09/14/2007 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER PIERCE, WILLIAM M	
			ART UNIT 3711	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/14/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ED

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/814,226
Filing Date: April 01, 2004
Appellant(s): FORD ET AL.

MAILED

SEP 12 2007

Group 3700

Andrew Calderon
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 5/21/07 appealing from the Office action mailed 11/3/06.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

GROUND OF REJECTION NOT ON REVIEW

The following grounds of rejection have not been withdrawn by the examiner, but they are not under review on appeal because they have not been presented for review in the appellant's brief.

Claim Objections

Claim 18 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The claim is functional in

that it only sets forth the intention of how it is to be made while not further limiting a structural element of a previously recited.

NEW GROUND(S) OF REJECTION

This new grounds for rejection corrects for two minor oversights not made apparent until the Brief in interpreting the dependency of claims 12, 31 and 37 and failing to explicitly list claim 6 in the list of claims in the heading of the grounds for rejection. No change has been made with respect to the art and the examiner's position as to how it has been applied to the claims. How the new grounds for rejection differs from the rejection made in the Final Office action is presented below with any deletions in brackets [] and additions underlined.

1. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, [12,] 19, 24, 25, 30, [31], and [37-] 38, 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U. S. Patent NO. 2,969,983 issued to De Vore.

2. Claims 2-5, 7, 10-12, 17, 18, 20-23, 26-29, 31, 32, 35-37 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over De Vore.

3. Claims 14-16 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over De Vore in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,348,513 to Heddon.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

2,969,983	DeVore	1-1961
5,348,513	Heddon	9-1994

(9) Grounds of Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 19, 24, 25, 30, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeVore 2,969,983 as set forth in the previous office action.

As to claims 1, 6, 8, 19, 24, 25, 30 and 37-39, DeVore shows wooden boards 47 held together by adhesive "between the contacting surfaces" (col. 5, ln. 59). As to claim 9, an underlayment 41 is shown. As to claims 6, 24, 31, 39 and 40, DeVore discloses a "bowling alley" and approach area 10. DeVore does not specifically intend his invention to only be applied to the part of the bowling lane upon which the ball is intended to be rolled towards the pins. In fact his disclosure is broad pertaining to, "construction...in securing of the bowling alley surface boards" (col. 1, ln. 17), which includes the approach area as shown by 10 in his fig. 1. We can further see from U.S. Patent 7,022,024 that the term "bowling lane" applies to all sections of the lane including the "approach area, a pin deck area and a lane area" (col. 1, ln. 53). Likewise, see 6,988,953, col. 1, lns. 11-19 and 6,645,082, col. 1, ln. 10.

DeVore discloses the use of adhesive "between the boards" as it penetrates during the building process. Col 5, Ln. 57+ goes into more detail that "the adhesive...is to a certain extent forced between the contacting surfaces of said boards...not only securing the contacting lower surfaces of the alley boards but likewise and simultaneously securing the said boards to one another".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 2-5, 7, 10-12, 17, 18, 20-23, 26-29, 31, 32, 35-37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVore.

Art Unit: 3711

The size of the boards in claims 2, 3, 26 and 27 is considered an obvious matter of choice and has not being shown to be critical. See In *Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 830, 225 USPQ 232 (1984). DeVore shows an approach section 10 as called for by claim 4. The size of the approach as called for in clam 4, 17, 18 and 28 is considered an obvious matter of choice (*Gardner v. TEC Systems*. DeVore teaches the use of any suitable adhesive (col. 4, ln. 55) to meet the limitations of claims 5 and 29. As to claims 7 and 40, the use of synthetic materials in place of wood is well known. As to claims 10, 11 and 32, the use of fiberboard, such as OSB Oriented Strand Board in place of plywood is old and well known. The underfloor 41 is adhesively secured to the boards 47 as called for by claim 12 (col. 6, ln. 3)."

As to clams 20, 21, 35 and 36, counter sunk screws and plugs are well known mechanical fasteners. To have replaced the adhesive of DeVore with that of a mechanical fastener would have been obvious to have replace one known mechanical fastening expedient for that of another. The use of dowels for range finders as called for in claim 22 and 37 is old and well known. As to claim 23, the use of mortise and finger joints to connect two wood elements together is considered to be old and well known. DeVore shows the use of such dovetails 17 and 18 (col. 2, Ins. 51-59) that are considered "interleaved finger joints" along a short side of adjacent floor sections. The interpretation of the dovetails of DeVore meeting the limitations of "finger joints" is supported by "Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger_joint

(attached here) where a finger joint is described as “much like a dovetail”. To have use a finger joint in DeVore would have been obvious in order to obtain a stronger joint.”

DeVore clearly contemplates the use of fasteners as his “sub-baseboard 33 is secured along its edges to each of the transverse beams 25 by means of screws” (col. 4, ln. 24). Pre-drilling for screw fasteners is old, well known and not considered a patentable advance. With respect to the “materials not invented” at the time of DeVore, it is known to be obvious to use a material to take advantage of its known properties. To apply newly available materials for their intended purpose to old products is not inventive and has been held obvious.

Claims 14-16, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVore in view of Heddon 5,348,513 as set forth in the previous office action.

Devore does not detail his foul line 12. Heddon teaches the use of embedded foul lines at the edge of lane panels. To have used a separated bonded piece as foul line 12 in DeVore would have been obvious method of making foul lines known in the art.

(10) Response to Argument

REJECTION UNDER 102(b)

With respect to claim 1, 8, 9 and 19, appellant asserts that DeVore does not show a “prefabricated flooring system adapted for a bowling center, a plurality of wooden boards each having substantially flat side edges along the longitudinal axis, wherein the interior boards are bonded together by an adhesive applied on the side edges and two of the outermost boards of the plurality of wooden boards are

bonded only on one side edge by the adhesive to adjacent corresponding interior boards to form a preformed section of wooden boards.” This argument has no merit. Shown in fig. 4 is a prefabricated flooring system made up of the baseboard 41 and alley boards 47 clearly adapted for use in a bowling center where the plurality of wooden alley boards 47 each having substantially fiat side edges along the longitudinal axis as shown in fig. 4. The interior boards are bonded together by an adhesive applied on the side edges where the adhesive "between the boards" as it penetrates during the building process. Col 5, Ln. 7+ goes into more detail that "the adhesive...is to a certain extent forced between the contacting surfaces of said boards..., not only securing the contacting lower surfaces of the alley boards but likewise and simultaneously securing the said boards to one another". Lastly, the two of the outermost boards of the plurality of wooden boards 34 and 35 are bonded only on one side edge by the adhesive to adjacent corresponding interior boards as shown in figs. 2 and 4 to form a preformed section of wooden boards.

Appellant argues that the examiner's interpretation of the term "prefabricated" is too broad and provides in his Brief a definition "to manufacture...in advance". However, Meriam-Webster's online Dictionary defines "prefabricate as "to fabricate the parts of at a factory so that construction consists mainly of assembling and uniting standardized parts ". Clearly the baseboard 41 and alley boards of DeVore are parts fabricated at a factory so that the alley can be assembled of standardized parts such that he clearly meets this recitation in the claims. Moreover, terms prefabricated and preformed impart no known structural difference over the applied art. Such is considered functional and

intended use. While features of an apparatus may be recited either structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. In re Schreiber, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477-78, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431-32 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Merely intending on making something offsite and to be brought to a place of use preassembled does not result in a new device unless there is a structural difference not fairly taught in the prior art. Here, the prior art shows each and every element that is being claimed. Last, while this rejection is based under 102 and not 103, it can be alternatively views that a method of producing the bowling alley of DeVore offsite such that it is prefabricated would have been obvious since this technique would have produced results predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art. Appellants admit that such is well known on pg. 12, ln. 11 of the Brief. Surely appellants are not the inventors of prefabricating devices. *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, No 04-1350 (U.S. APR. 30, 2007). The desire for prefabricated panels is further known in the art of bowling as taught by Heddon 4,169,602 and further in U.S. Patent 5,183,262 at col. 4, ln. 48.

In the middle of pg. 12, appellant argues that DeVore teaches “the outermost boards are adhered to retaining strips 70 and 71”. However, the claim limitation requires that the boards are bonded on “only one side edge”. From DeVore, we see outermost board 34 in fig. 4 has having two side edges, one contacting the adjacent alley board 47 and the other adjacent to the gutter 14. It is “only one side edge”, the one adjacent to the alley board 47 that has adhesive as “illustrated by the stippling in fig. 4” (col. 5, ln. 64). The claim recites nothing with respect to the “bottom” of the alley

board. As such, appellant's argument that DeVore also bonds the alley board 47 to retaining strips 70 and 71 is a moot point. If anything, DeVore teaches above and beyond what is being claimed. He shows adhesive on "only one side edge" and additionally adhesive used on the bottom to help secure it to the base boards.

No arguments are presented with respect to claims 8, 9 and 19. As such, these claims should stand rejected for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 24

The scope of claim 24 differs from claim 1 in that it recites an "approach section" instead of the broader "flooring system of claim 1. Appellant wishes to derail the Board into believing that the disclosure of DeVore does not pertain to an approach area of a bowling lane. However, DeVore specifically mentions the approach area 10 of a bowling lane. He clearly does not specifically mention that his invention is only to be applied to the part of the bowling lane upon which the ball is intended to be rolled towards the pins. In fact his disclosure is broad pertaining to, "construction...in securing of the bowling alley surface boards" (col. 1, ln. 17), which implies the approach area, lane and pit area. We can see from U.S. Patent 7,022,024 that the term "bowling lane" applies to all sections of the lane including the "approach area, a pin deck area and a lane area" (col. 1, ln. 53). Likewise, see 6,988,953, col. 1, lns. 11-19 and 6,645,082, col. 1, ln. 10. It would have been suggested to one skilled in the art reading DeVore that his construction for a bowling lane would apply to the entire bowling lane including the

Art Unit: 3711

approach and pit area. The fact that an approach area of a bowling lane has well known characteristics such as no gutters (as admitted by appellant, pg. 14, ln. 16) is not unexpected to one skilled in the art. One viewing DeVore would surely know how to lay the base board 41 and lane boards 47 in a side-by-side fashion in order to form a lane surface on that portion of the bowling lane. The approach is clearly implied by DeVore as being a bowling lane surface. By claiming the exact same combination of elements of DeVore and merely reciting the function of using it for an "approach section" does not distinguish over DeVore. One skilled in the art knows that it is only different in its intended use. It too experiences great wear from bowlers walking, sliding and dropping balls. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Lee, 277 F.3d 1338, 1342-44, 61 USPQ2d 1430, 1433-34 (Fed. Cir. 2002). As shown by the patent literature referred to above, replacement and repair of a bowling lane, like that of DeVore would surely include all of the bowling lane including the approach and pit area.

Prefabricated (pg. 14)

Hereat, Appellant restates his position previously set forth above. Examiner's position with respect to the recitation of "prefabricated" in the claims is the same as set forth above with respect to claim 1 and no further comment is deemed necessary.

Only one side (pg. 19)

These limitation and appellant's argument are the same as claim 1. Examiner's position is set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Same thickness

This feature is implicit in DeVore. Appellant states that his is critical to ensure the lane and the approach sections are at the same level. This argument is absurd since this is a characteristic that can be said to be inherent in all bowling alleys and surely appellant is not the inventor of an approach section that is the same level of a bowling lane. See U.S Patents 3,322,345, fig. 2, 7,022,024 fig. 8 and 5,540,624, fig. 3. Where appellant states there is no disclosure of the thickness of the approach in DeVore, one cannot ignore what is conventional and well known to one of ordinary skill in the art. The disclosure of DeVore pertains to bowling alleys (col. 1, ln. 15) which are very well known to have approach sections the same thickness of the lane such that they are at the same height.

Independent Claim 38 (pg. 20)

Appellant asserts that DeVore does not show a prefabricated flooring system, sides of boards being bonded together, outermost boards being bonded only one side and interleaved finger joint. The three former limitations are considered met as set forth above in examiner's response with respect to claim 1. With respect to the latter, DeVore shows the use of dovetails 17 and 18 (col. 2, lns. 51-59) which are considered "interleaved finger joints" along a short side of adjacent floor sections. These finger joints are known to add mechanical strength between the sections of the bowling lane.

As such, the use of finger joints between the boards of DeVore are considered fairly shown and the rejection should be sustained.

Prefabricated (pg. 20)

Appellant advances the same arguments made with respect to claim 1.

Examiner's position is advanced above with respect to this claim.

Only one side (pg. 27)

These limitation and appellant's argument are the same as claim 1. Examiner's position is set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Short sides

Dovetails 17 and 18 (col. 2, Ins. 51-59) are considered "interleaved finger joints" along a short side of adjacent floor sections. The interpretation of the dovetails of DeVore meeting the limitations of "finger joints" is supported by "Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger_joint (attached) here a finger joint is described as "much like a dovetail". Appellant argues that "there is no indication or showing that the dovetails are interleaved at the short ends of each of the boards. However, the boards have a long end where adjacent boards contact running longitudinally to the alley and short ends between lane section running perpendicular to the lane. Dovetails 17 and 18 are considered to be on the short ends of the boards meeting all the limitations recited in the claim. With respect to the adhesive, DeVore discloses that it "penetrates the adjacent surfaces of the boards" (col. 5, In. 6) which meets the limitation of "adhesive applied thereon".

Dependent Claim 12

Art Unit: 3711

The Final Rejection, pg. 2, ln. 12 clearly sets forth that, "the underfloor 41 is adhesively secured to the boards as called for by claim 12 (col. 6, ln. 3)."

As to claim 11, at the top of pg. 13 of appellant's specification he discloses,

"The underlying layer or layers, designated as "L", may be manufactured from a synthetic material such as medium density fiber (MDF) or high density fiber (HDF) boards or oriented strand board (OSB) or high density particle board (HDP), which is less expensive than that of the wood upper layer."

On pg. 3, ln. 16 of the Final Office action the examiner takes notice that, ". As to claims 10, 11 and 32, the use of fiberboard, such as OSB Oriented Strand Board in place of plywood is old and well known." Appellant has never before or here at seasonably challenged this and is considered admitted prior art.

DeVore was disclosed before the availability of such materials, o obviously he would not have made reference to them. However, he does recognize that it may be "any suitable and solid foundation" (col. 7, ln. 7). MDF and HDP are well known and widely used substitutes for plywood with well known properties. Since the selection of a known material in order to take advantage of its known properties has been held to be obvious, these claims are consider fairly taught by the prior art.

Lastly, claim 12 has been properly placed under the 103 grounds for rejection and the arguments pertaining to its dependency are considered moot.

Dependent Claim 25

Claim 25 merely recites that the bowling lane is a "lamine floor" without any further structure. Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines a laminate to be "to make

(as a windshield) by uniting superposed layers of one or more materials **b** : to unite (layers of material) by an adhesive or other means". DeVore shows superposed layers of baseboard 41 and boards 47 and further shows these "layers of material to be united by an adhesive 52. As such it is indisputable hat DeVore meets the limitations of this claim.

Dependant Claim 30

Appellant reiterates arguments made with respect to claim 1 on pgs. 6-12 of the Brief. The examiners position with respect to these limitations in view of the applied art is set forth above with respect to that claim and no further comment is deemed necessary.

Dependent Claim 31 (pg. 33)

Claim 31 depends from independent claim 24 and appellant reiterates his argument hereat with respect to that independent claim. Examiner's position that DeVore's disclosure specifically discloses an approach 10 and pertains to a "bowling alley" which includes all the parts commonly associated by one skilled in that art is set forth above in his response to the arguments made with respect to claim 24. The facts and evidence that one skilled in the art considers a "bowling alley" to include an approach, lane and pit sections is clearly proven in the Patents referenced thereat.

With respect to claim 29, the selection of a known adhesive for its intended purpose has been held obvious. Appellant has not shown where his use of any of the adhesive recited is critical by solving any particular problem or producing any

unexpected results. As set forth above, with respect to claim 25, DeVore clearly shows a laminate in his two superimposed layers 41 and 47.

While appellant never explicitly states that the recited "curable finish" in claim 31 is not shown from DeVore. This argument is not made likely due to the fact that the use of "polyurethane" finishes on bowling lanes are old and well known "curable finishes". One such finish is appended to this Answer for the Board from <http://www.lewiscontractorsales.com/fabulon.html>.

The problems associated with the misinterpretation of the dependency of claim 31 are corrected in the new grounds for rejection above and this argument is now considered moot.

Dependent Claim 37

On pg. 3, ln. 21 of the Final Office Action, the examiner sets forth that "the use of dowels for range finders as called for in claim 22 and 37 is old and well known. Since this has not been challenged previously or hereat such is considered admitted prior art and this argument is considered moot. Evidence to support the old and well know assertion can be found in U.S. Patent 5,183,262 in dowels 41 at col. 5, ln. 41 and 3,250,535 col. 2, ln. 46. The use of these wood dowels is old and well known such the "guide spot" can be sanded smooth during refinishing of the bowling lane.

Dependent Claim 39

Appellant advance no new argument and relies on what was previously argued. Examiners position with respect to the recitation of and “approach area” is set forth above and no further comment is deemed necessary.

Rejection under 103

Dependent claim 2

Appellant argues that his thickness is a critical consideration because without such “the bowling lane many be not certified by the U.S. Bowling Congress. Surely, one of ordinary skilled in the art faced with the problem associated with the designing and building a bowling lane would take into consideration the requirements of the standards known in the industry. In *In re Sovish*, 226 USPQ 771, 769 F2d 738 there is a great quote about the skilled worker that applies to this argument that one would not consider known industrial standards in designing a bowling alley that such presumes stupidity rather than skill as required of those of ordinary skill practicing in the art.

Appellant continues his argument that the sections of the alley “would not align” and “if not impossible, very difficult to bowl”. In accepting such an argument, one would have to ignore the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art which has been found to be improper. *KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, No 04-1350 (U.S. APR. 30, 2007). As such, this argument is also unpersuasive and the grounds for rejection should be sustained.

Dependent Claim 3

Appellant copies and pastes arguments made with respect to claim 2 hereat. Examiner’s position is set forth above and no further comment is deemed necessary.

Dependent Claim 6

Appellant argues that the “finality” of the final office action is improper and should be withdrawn. However, this is not an appealable issue and no further comment is deemed necessary.

Examiner’s position with respect to claim 6 is set forth in the grounds for rejection set forth above. The application of at disclosure of DeVore to the approach section of a bowling lane is set forth there at and above with respect to claim 24.

Dependent Claim 7

As to claim 7, on pg. 3, ln. 16 of the final office action the examiner asserts that “the use of synthetic materials in place of wood is well known”. Appellant has not previously or hereat disputed the finding and such is considered admitted prior art. The best known example of synthetic woods is sold under the trademark of Trex at <http://www.trex.com>.

While appellant believes that the rejection was made purely on design choice (pg. 38, ln. 16). As set forth above this is not the case. The examiner’s position is that the substitution of wood for synthetic materials is well known. It has further been held that the selection of materials to take advantage of their known properties would have been obvious. Appellant has not shown where his use of synthetic materials is critical by solving any particular problem or producing any unexpected results.

Lastly, the design considerations advance at the bottom of pg. 38 are well within the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art. *KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, No 04-1350 (U.S. APR. 30, 2007). As such, the use of synthetic materials has not been

shown to be critical and this argument is also unpersuasive and the grounds for rejection should be sustained.

Dependent Claim 17

Claim 17 addresses a section such as an approach. As shown by element 10 in fig. 1 of DeVore, he shows a section "wider" than the bowling lane which clearly anticipates this claim.

Appellants assertion that DeVore is directed only to a bowling lane is just plain wrong. Element 10 of DeVore shows that it is possible for him to have a plurality of wooden boards of greater wider than the lane upon which the ball rolls.

Dependent claim 18

Fig. 1 at 13 of DeVore clearly meets the limitations of claim 18. As set forth above with respect to claim 1, DeVore is considered to be "prefabricated".

Claim 20 & 21

Pg. 3, ln. 18 of the final rejection asserts that the use of "screws and plugs are well known mechanical fasteners'. Appellant has not before nor here in his Brief disputed this conclusion. As such, this is considered admitted prior art. Evidence of this conclusion can be seen in Heddon 5,348,513 in his elements 78 and 80. Clearly this is a well known fastening expedient in the art of bowling and appellant is not the inventor.

Claim 23

Pg. 3, ln. 21 of the final rejection asserts that "the use of mortise and finger joints to connect two wood elements together is considered old and well known". Appellant

has not before nor here in his Brief disputed this conclusion. As such, this is considered admitted prior art.

Moreover, as set forth above on pg. 12 of this Answer with respect to claim 38, the “dovetails” 17 and 18 (col. 2, Ins. 51-59) of DeVore are considered “interleaved finger joints”. The interpretation of the dovetails meeting the limitations of “finger joints” is supported by “Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger_joint (attached) in which a finger joint is described as “much like a dovetail”. With respect to the adhesive, DeVore discloses that it “penetrates the adjacent surfaces of the boards” (col. 5, ln. 6) which meets the limitation of “adhesive applied thereon”.

Claims 26 & 27 & 28

Examiner’s position with respect to these claims is set forth above with respect to claim 24 which recites a prefabricated approach and claims 2, 3 and 17 respectively which recites the thickness of the bowling lane section. Restating the examiner’s interpretation is not deemed necessary.

Claim 35 & 36

Examiner’s position with respect to these claims is set forth above with respect to claim 20 and 21 respectively which recites the thickness of the bowling lane section.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner’s answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Art Unit: 3711

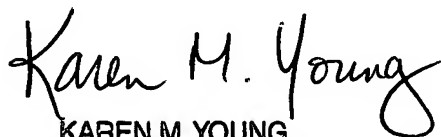
Respectfully submitted,

/William Pierce/ Primary Examiner 3711

Conferees:

/Marc Jimenez/ TQAS TC 3700

/Gene Kim/ Supervisory Patent Examiner 3711


KAREN M. YOUNG
DIRECTOR
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Finger joint

Your continued donations keep Wikipedia running!

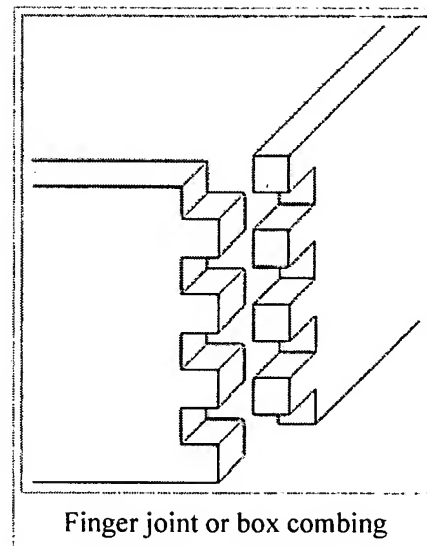
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **finger joint** or **box combing** or **box joint** is a woodworking technique used to join two pieces of wood at right angles to each other. It is much like a dovetail joint except that the pins are square and not angled and usually equally spaced. The joint relies on glue for holding together as it does not have the mechanical strength of a dovetail.

The joint is relatively easy to make using a table saw or a wood router with a simple jig.

Please see also for more information

- Woodworking joints



Finger joint or box combing

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger_joint"

Categories: Woodworking stubs | Joinery

- This page was last modified 18:54, 21 March 2007.
- All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. (See **Copyrights** for details.) Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a US-registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity.

Lewis Contractor Sales

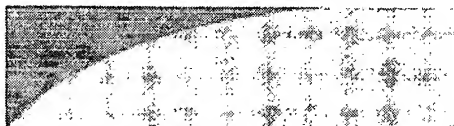
☐ Shipping and Payment Details

☐ Contact
Us

☐ Search

☐ Home

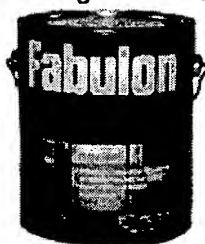
☐ Privacy



- ☐ Abrasive Blades & Grinding Stones
- ☐ Air Compressors, Air Tools & Acc.
- ☐ Bosch Power Tools
- ☐ Brushes & Brooms
- ☐ Bucket Boss Tool Bags & Acc.
- ☐ Cargo Control & Tie Downs
- ☐ Cobra Heavy Duty Staplers
- ☐ Commercial Hose & Acc.
- ☐ Compaction Equipment
- ☐ Concrete, Mortar & Mud Mixers
- ☐ Concrete Hand Tools
- ☐ Concrete Power Trowel Blades
- ☐ Concrete, Masonry & Tile Saws
- ☐ Dead On Tools & Acc.
- ☐ Decorative Concrete Mats & Acc.
- ☐ Diamond Blades & Core Bits
- ☐ Drywall Tools
- ☐ Fabulon Hardwood Floor Finish's
- ☐ Fall Arrest Body Harness's
- ☐ Floor Maintenance Equipment
- ☐ Generators
- ☐ Hard Hats
- ☐ Hearing Protection
- ☐ Hero Airless Paint Sprayers
- ☐ Lasers, Marking & Measuring Tools
- ☐ Masonry Hand Tools
- ☐ Material Handling Equipment
- ☐ Metrix Hand Tools
- ☐ Plumbing Equipment
- ☐ Portable Heaters, Parts & Acc.
- ☐ Pressure Washers & Acc.
- ☐ Respirators & Dust Masks
- ☐ Safety Glasses

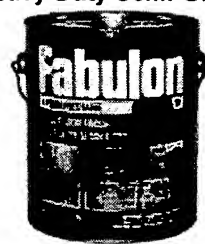
North America's Premium Wood Floor Finshies

**Fabulon
The Original
Bowling Lane finish**



[View](#)

**Fabulon
Polyurethane
Heavy Duty Semi-Gloss**



[View](#)

**F
Poly
Heavy**



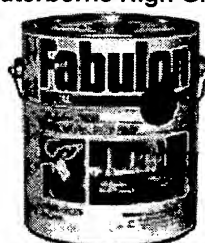
[View](#)

**Fabulon
Polyurethane
Heavy Duty High Gloss**



[View](#)

**Fabulon
Crystal
Waterborne High Gloss**



[View](#)

**F
C
Water**



[View](#)

**Fabulon
Clean-Sheen
Wood Floor Cleaner**



[View](#)

Fabulon finishes are known as the top of the line, for durability, inno

- ☐ Spectra Lasers
- ☐ Struction & Seymour Hand Tools
- ☐ Van Mark Aluminum Breaks & Acc.
- ☐ W. Rose Brick Trowels
- ☐ Water Pumps
- ☐ Work Gloves



Select a product &
ORDER
on our
secure
server



Our bowling lane finishes were first made in 1934, and Fabulon has been finishing fields since. In 1977, FABULON developed a unique water-base finish that led directly to the formulation of our consumer water-base finish.

Fabulon Heavy-Duty Polyurethane :

This product is known by professionals and homeowners as one of the best polyurethanes on the market.

It has exceptionally high polyurethane resin content that assures maximum excellent body and a long lasting no wax finish. It never needs.

This finish provides an easy-to-care for "coat of protection" on bowling lanes. Fabulon Heavy-Duty polyurethane is also available in a low VOC version.

Fabulon Heavy-Duty Polyurethane is available in three sheens: Super-Gloss, Semi-Gloss, and Satin.

Fabulon Crystal:

Crystal is a direct result of decades of research for bowling lane finishes. It provides a high-performance water-borne finish for residential floors. It provides your floor with a beautiful, light natural gloss or satin finish and is easy to apply. Crystal has excellent gloss retention and durability. This water-based finish is practically odorless, dries fast (one or two hours) and cleans up easily. Crystal is available in Gloss or Satin sheens.

Original Fabulon Fast Dry:

This product is the twin of the clear coating used for years to beautify bowling lanes against the constant battering of bowling balls and pins. When applied, Original Fabulon is the only floor finish that polishes itself and stays new for years.

Original Fabulon produces an attractive lustrous gloss finish with excellent resistance to abrasion and wear.

It dries in less than an hour and is easy to maintain, floors can be cleaned with waxing. It can be easily blend-patched and is self repairable, without the need for use over stain.

Original Fabulon comes in a gloss finish only.